

# House Education & the Workforce Committee

**John Boehner, Chairman**

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# FACT SHEET

## **President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* (H.R. 1): Fueling Education Reform by Empowering Parents**

President Bush's education plan, *No Child Left Behind* (H.R. 1), meets House Republican priorities by empowering parents with information about their children's education at the expense of bureaucracy.

**In the hands of caring parents, information can be a powerful catalyst for change in public schools.** House Republicans believe strongly that parents should have:

- The right to know how their child's school stacks up against others.
- The right to know that their child is being taught by qualified public school teachers.
- The right to know whether their children are truly learning.

***Why ask states and schools to test public school students annually in grades 3-8 in reading and math?***

- States and schools using federal education dollars must be held accountable for results. The only way for parents to know for certain that students are learning is to measure, and measure regularly.

***Why require public "report cards" on state and school performance?***

- Report cards shine the spotlight on the quality of all schools in the state. They enhance parents' ability to make informed choices about their children's education, and enable citizens to help push for change in low performing schools.
- Report cards help parents judge how their local schools stack up against others in the state on the academic achievement of the school, teacher qualifications, completion and passage rates, and percentages of students graduating.

***Why give parents the right to know the qualifications of those who teach their children?***

- For too long, there has been no real accountability in federal tax dollars that are used for teacher training. Having requirements for fully qualified teachers will ensure good stewardship of tax dollars and a better education for our children.
- H.R.1 ensures that federal tax dollars are invested wisely in promoting quality teaching and a fully qualified teaching force by 2005.
- H.R. 1 ensures that parents would have access to information about whether their child's teacher is licensed, emergency certified, the degree the teacher holds, and the field of study of the teacher. Parents would also be entitled to know whether their son or daughter is receiving services from a teacher's aide.

Washington has spent nearly \$130 billion since 1965 – and more than \$80 billion in the past decade alone – in an unsuccessful effort to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers. **How much longer will Washington spend education dollars without insisting on results? Without putting parents in charge?**